Met Office

July 2008

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1961-1990.

UK overview

Mean temperatures ranged from close to average across SW England and S Wales to over 1 °C above average across Scotland. Rainfall was generally above or well above average across Northern Ireland, England and Wales, but close to average across East Anglia. Rainfall over Scotland ranged from below average across the north-west to above average across the south-east. Sunshine was generally close to average across the UK.

Cambridge NIAB (Cambridgeshire) recorded a maximum temperature of 30.2 °C on 28th. Katesbridge (County Down) recorded a minimum temperature of 0.8 °C on 13th. Holne (Devon) recorded 84.1 mm of rainfall on 5th. A wind gust of 64 mph was recorded at Needles Old Battery (Isle of Wight) on 7th.

England diary of highlights

Unsettled for the most part, although a fine and hot spell towards the end.

1st to 4th: Fine and hot weather on the 1st came to an end later in the day as heavy rain and thunderstorms broke-out in the west and spread eastwards during the night. This left the 2nd and 3rd a little cooler with a mix of sunshine and scattered heavy showers. The showers were particularly heavy and thundery in the south-west during the morning of the 2nd and again late evening and overnight. Chilly overnight on the 3rd/4th, with a minimum temperature of 3.5 °C being recorded at Upper Lambourn (Berkshire), then the 4th was generally fine and warm under the influence of a temporary ridge of high pressure. However, by the evening, wet and rather windy weather had moved into the south-west, before spreading north-eastwards to the rest of England during the night.

5th to 12th: The close proximity of low pressure gave very unsettled and cool weather throughout, with occasional heavy showers or longer spells of rain. As well as persistent heavy rain, it was also very windy in the south-west on the 5th, with gusts of 50 to 60 m.p.h. at Berry Head (Devon). Heavy thundery downpours across northern England on the 6th. The south-west bore the brunt of very heavy rain again on the 9th, with Plymouth (Devon) and Dunkeswell (Devon) receiving 24-hour totals of 40 and 49 mm respectively. Virtually every day saw heavy rain somewhere, though showers became lighter and well-scattered on the 12th.

13th to 15th: A ridge of high pressure gave generally warm and fair weather, although thickening cloud did eventually bring drizzle to the far west later on the 14th with further patchy rain to follow in the north and west on the 16th. The temperature reached 24.3 °C at Gravesend Broadness (Kent) on the 14th and 26.4 °C at Coningsby (Lincolnshire) on the 15th.

16th to 18th: Staying reasonably warm and fair across the south and east of England, while weather fronts brought spells of rain to the north and far west.

19th to 21st: A cool north-westerly air flow gave bright and breezy conditions, with a mix of sunshine and scattered showers. The showers were most prevalent and quite heavy across eastern England, but few and far between towards the sunnier and slightly warmer south-west.

22nd to 28th: Generally more settled through this period as an increasingly hot and humid southerly flow took hold. The temperature reached 29.7 °C at Kew Gardens (Greater London) on the 27th and 30.2 °C at Cambridge NIAB (Cambridgeshire) on the 28th. Much of England saw temperatures reaching the mid to high

20s on most days, with the main exception being along north-eastern coasts plagued by misty low cloud and sea fog. On the 25th, some thundery rain affected the south-west during the morning and the north-west during the evening. On the evening of the 26th, isolated thunderstorms broke out across East Anglia and the east Midlands. Later on the 28th, more-widespread heavy rain and thunderstorms developed in the south-west, and spread north-eastwards during the evening and night. Hourly rainfall totals of 20-30 mm occurred across parts of the south-west Midlands on the evening of the 28th.

29th to 31st: Often wet and breezy in the west, while considerably warmer and drier across central and eastern areas. The rain turning heavy in the west later on the 30th and during the 31st, before moving north-eastwards during the evening and night of the 31st as a band of thundery downpours. On the 31st, Boulmer (Northumberland) recorded 52.2 mm, whilst the temperature reached 29.5 °C at Holbeach (Lincolnshire) on the 31st.

Wales diary of highlights

Changeable with rain or showers.

1st to 6th: Fine and dry on the 1st with some sunshine, and warm in the east. The temperature reached 25.5 °C at Hawarden Airport (Flintshire) and Colwyn Bay (Conwy). Scattered showers on the 2nd, heavy and thundery in places, giving torrential downpours in the south during the afternoon. Some heavy and thundery rain moved northwards through the 3rd. The 4th was dry with some sunshine, but cloud and rain spread into the south later.

7th to 13th: This week started very unsettled with showers. The showers were interspersed with some sunshine, but some of the showers were heavy and thundery in places. Sunny spells and scattered showers on the 8th, with the showers dying away as cloud started to thicken from the south-west. The 9th was cloudy with outbreaks of rain across most areas, the rain heavy at times, with St Athan (near Cardiff) recording a 24-hour rainfall total of 48.4 mm. The 10th was a much better day, with some sunshine, but also one or two scattered showers. Some of these became heavy with thunder. More sunshine and scattered heavy showers on the 11th, but then a cloudier day on the 12th, but still with a few showers. The 13th was rather cloudy, with Cardiff Bute Park recording a temperature of 21.0 °C.

14th to 20th: The 14th was generally cloudy, but mild. Mist, hill fog and patchy drizzle affected the west, and this persisted in western parts through the 15th. There were some bright or sunny intervals in the east though, with Hawarden Airport recording a temperature of 23.5 °C. The 16th started dry and sunny, with thickening cloud and rain arriving during the afternoon and evening, the rain persistent and heavy for a time. This rain continued to affect the north at first on the 17th, with the south somewhat drier and brighter, but still a few spots of rain at times. All parts were drier later in the day. There were scattered showers on the 18th, with the west rather cloudy and misty. The rather cool and changeable type continued on the 19th and 20th, with sunny spells and scattered showers.

21st to 27th: A largely fine and sunny week, and very warm at times. There was more cloud on the 22nd, but it stayed warm. A few showers spread into the south-west overnight into the 24th. Valley (Anglesey) turned out to be very warm in the south-easterly flow, reaching 27 °C on the 24th. These high temperatures triggered some thundery outbreaks of rain for the 25th though, spreading from the south-west to the north, where they eventually decayed. Very warm and sunny again on the 26th, but with light winds and clear skies. The 27th started chilly, with a temperature of 6.3 °C at Sennybridge (Powys). Temperatures rose sharply through the day, with Cardiff Bute Park recording a temperature of 28.3 °C.

28th to 31st: The week started hot and sunny, but some heavy and thundery downpours developed during the afternoon of the 28th and there were further showers into the 29th. Rain moved into the south-west later on the 29th. The 30th dawned cloudy and wet across the south, the rain spreading to all parts. The 31st was very wet and unsettled, as heavy rain spread slowly and erratically north-eastwards.

Scotland diary of highlights

Rainfall ranged from below average across the north-west, to above average across the south-east. Mean temperatures above average.

1st to 7th: An unsettled spell with low pressure dominating the weather. Rain in the west on the 1st, but drier and brighter spells in the east. The temperature reached 24.1 °C at Charterhall (Borders). Heavy rain affected eastern Scotland overnight. Heavy showers developed across the mainland on the 2nd, with rain affecting Shetland. The 3rd saw further showers develop, some heavy and thundery, with the rain continuing in the Northern Isles. Sunny intervals with some scattered thunderstorms late in the afternoon on the 4th. Bright or sunny intervals on the 5th, with rain spreading up from the south later. Haar affected the east coast on the 4th and 5th. Scattered showers on the 6th, but these mainly in the south and east. Bright intervals and scattered showers on the 7th, but cloudy in the east.

8th to 10th: Sunny spells and showers on the 8th. The showers were most frequent across the north and east, with thunder in places. Overnight drizzle cleared on the 9th, then sunshine and a few showers. Heavy rain reached the south-west during the evening and affected many areas during the 10th, with Eskdalemuir (Dumfries and Galloway) reporting 47.6 mm in 24 hours, and a landslide reported on the A7 (south of Langholm). The north-west Highlands were much drier.

11th to 17th: Drier on the 11th with a few showers. The 12th was mostly cloudy in the east, with rain at times, but drier in the west and becoming brighter. Islay and Loch Glascarnoch started the 13th with a temperature of 4.5 °C, with the temperature rising to 22.0°C at Craibstone (Aberdeenshire) in sunny spells. Rain developed over the north-west during the evening. Cloudy in the west on the 14th with rain, heavy later. Dry and sunny in the east, with the temperature reaching 25.2 °C at Dyce (Aberdeenshire). A band of rain moved southwards on the 15th (gales in Shetland) followed by showers. A showery day on the 16th, although the showers mostly in the west. A cloudy start on the 17th with rain, but becoming brighter with scattered showers. Further rain pushed in from the north-west during the evening.

18th to 20th: Mostly cloudy on the 18th with showers. Showers continued on the 19th and 20th accompanied by a strong and cool north-westerly wind.

21st to 31st: A cool start to the 21st, with a temperature of 4.0 °C at Tulloch Bridge (Highland). Milder conditions arrived from the south, but with patchy rain in the west later. The 22nd was cloudy with patchy rain in the west, but drier and brighter in the east. The temperature reached 26.4 °C at Aboyne (Aberdeenshire) on the 22nd. The north-east enjoyed the best of sunshine on the 23rd, with Glenlivet (Moray) recording a temperature of 27.2 °C. On the 24th, the west coast was warmest with Plockton (Highland) recording a temperature of 27.6 °C. Another mainly dry, sunny and warm day on the 25th, but haar for the north-east and Northern Isles. Scattered heavy showers reached the south-west late in the day, with some isolated thunderstorms. Mainly dry and very warm on the 26th, but with some coastal mist and fog. Isolated heavy showers later in the day. The north saw further thundery showers on the 27th, with Tain Range (Highland) recording 13.4 mm in one hour. Similar conditions on the 28th, with Prestwick (South Ayrshire) recording a temperature of 27.6 °C. Similar again on the 29th, when Aultbea (Highland) reached a temperature of 26.7 °C and Strathallan (Perth & Kinross) recorded 13.6 mm of rain in one hour. Similar again on the 30th, with the west and south-west having rain during the morning and again through the evening. Rain affected western Scotland on the morning of the 31st with more rain extending northwards during the evening.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

A dull month with well above average rainfall.

1st to 10th: Rain pushed east on the 1st, followed by drier and brighter conditions. Heavy showers developed during the 2nd, some thundery in places. There were further heavy thundery showers on the 3rd and

Portglenone (County Antrim) recorded 28 mm during the period 0900-2100 UTC. Sunshine and scattered showers on the 4th. Generally cloudy on the 5th with showers, heaviest in the east. Bright intervals and showers on the 6th, again some thundery in places. Bright intervals and showers for the 7th and 8th. Mist cleared on the 9th to leave sunny spells. Heavy rain spread north from mid-afternoon, with 26.4 mm falling in the 6 hours to 2300 at St. Angelo (County Fermanagh). Outbreaks of heavy and persistent rain continued during the 10th, with 12.8 mm in an hour at Katesbridge (County Down) during the evening, although drier conditions arrived later.

11th to 16th: Rather cloudy on the 11th, with light showers at first. The maximum temperature only reached 14 to 16 °C in most areas. The 12th started rather cloudy with a few showers, but drier and brighter during the afternoon. Katesbridge (County Down) started the 13th with a temperature of 0.8 °C, but temperatures rose to around 19 to 20 °C in sunny spells. Bright intervals on the 14th, but becoming cloudy with rain later. The temperature reached 24.1 °C at Helens Bay (County Down). A band of rain passed through during the morning of the 15th, followed by brighter conditions and scattered showers. Sunny intervals and further showers on the 16th, prolonged later.

17th to 20th: Mostly cloudy on the 17th and 18th with occasional rain or showers. Showers continued on the 19th and 20th accompanied by a strong and cool north-westerly wind.

21st to 31st: A cool start to the 21st, with a temperature of 3.8 °C at Castlederg (County Tyrone), but becoming warmer with some light rain. The 22nd and 23rd were mainly dry with sunny intervals, with the temperature reaching 23.1 °C at Ballykelly (County Londonderry) on the 23rd. Still warm on the 24th and 25th with a few showers. Mainly dry and warm on the 26th and 27th with sunny spells. The warm spell continued on 28th, with the temperature reaching 25.9 °C at Castlederg. Thundery rain edged northwards during the morning of the 29th, then becoming brighter for a time, before more thunderstorms towards the evening. Rain early on the 30th and again during the evening, but brighter in between. Rather cloudy with rain on the 31st, heavy at times, and Ballypatrick Forest (County Antrim) recorded 12.2 mm in one hour during the evening.

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